

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2760

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR WB GW US UK FR UR
SUBJECT: SOME BERLIN COMMENTS BY SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR KHOTULEV

REF: USBER 2600

1. ON DECEMBER 17, POLAD PRIVATELY AND IN LOW KEY
REPROACHED KHOTULEV FOR GDR FONMIN REP MITDANK'S HAVING
CITED A KHOTULEV-POLAD CONVERSATION IN DESCRIBING
"SO-CALLED GDR NATURAL RIGHTS RE THE QA." THIS HAD
PUZZLED MR. KUNZE OF THE SENAT IN THE MITDANK/KUNZE TALK
OF NOVEMBER 16. POLAD SAID WE OBVIOUSLY DID NOT WISH
TO IMPLY THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD REFRAIN FROM BRIEFING
OUR GERMAN ALLIES, BUT INJECTION BY THE GERMANS OF
ALLIED/SOVIET TALKS INTO THEIR PROTOCOLS WAS INAPPROPRIATE,
CONFUSED COMPETENCIES, AND COULD LEAD TO BREACH
OF CONFIDENTIALITY, I.E., PUBLICITY.

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2. KHOTULEV SAID YES," BUT THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE
HAD REREAD THE MIDANK/KUNZE PROTOCOL CAREFULLY (COMMENT:
IN THE CONTEXT THIS WAS BY IMPLICATION AS A FOLLOW-UP TO
FRENCH MINISTER LANDY'S EARLIER REMARKS ON THE SAME
SUBJECT. END COMMENT.) HE HAD NOT FOUND ANY REFERENCE
TO SUCH AN ALLEGED STATEMENT BY MITDANK, AND FELT

THAT KUNZE HAD INSERTED SOMETHING THAT HAD NOT BEEN SAID.
POLAD COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS IMPOSSIBLE, AS KUNZE HAD
NOT AT THAT TIME KNOWN ABOUT THE CONVERSATION.

3. KHOTULEV SAID THAT HE WAS NOW COVERING ALL FOREIGN
POLICY MATTERS FOR HIS EMBASSY, HAVING TAKEN OVER
MINISTER GROMYKO'S WORK AS WELL AS BERLIN/GERMAN MATTERS.
HE SAID HE REQUIRED NO EDUCATION IN THE NEW SUBSTANCE,
BUT THAT THE DETAILS WERE TIME-CONSUMING.

4. HE WAS PLEASED WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S GOVERNMENT
STATEMENT ON BERLIN. IT INDICATED "CONTINUITY" OF
PAST SCHNIDT POLICY TOWARDS BERLIN.

5. COMMENT. KHOTULEV SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN THE POINT
ABOUT THE QUESTIONABLE TASTE OF MITDANK CITING ALLIED/
SOVIET DISCUSSIONS. WHETHER THIS WILL PREVENT REPETITIONS
REMAINS TO BE SEEN. MITDANK'S STYLE APPARENTLY IS ONE
OF ARTFUL GARRULITY AND ALLEGED INFORMALITY, HEAVILY
ORIENTED TOWARDS ONE-UPMANSHIP. DAVIS

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